MARVEL LEGACY

PUNISHER: WAR MACHINE

219

THE PUNISHER

ROSENBERG
VILANOVA
LOUGHRIDGE

MARVEL COMICS
PROUDLY PRESENTS:

FRANK CASTLE WAS A DECORATED MARINE, AN UPSTANDING CITIZEN, AND A FAMILY MAN. THEN HIS FAMILY WAS TAKEN FROM HIM WHEN THEY WERE ACCIDENTALLY KILLED IN A BRUTAL MOB HIT. FROM THAT DAY, HE BECAME A FORCE OF COLD, CALCULATED RETRIBUTION AND VIGILANTISM. FRANK CASTLE DIED WITH HIS FAMILY. NOW, THERE IS ONLY...

THE PUNISHER

FRANK CASTLE IN PUNISHER: WAR MACHINE PART TWO

CHERNAYA, A ROGUE STATE IN EASTERN EUROPE, IS OPERATING UNDER THE MILITARY REGIME OF GENERAL PETROV. PETROV WAS ABLE TO TAKE POWER USING RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL FROM A FORMER S.H.I.E.L.D. OUTPOST, SET UP IN SECRET BY NICK FURY, THAT WENT SOUR AFTER THE GLOBAL SPY ORGANIZATION WENT UNDER. NICK FURY'S GOT A PROBLEM—FRANK CASTLE IS THE SOLUTION. FURY FILLED CASTLE IN ON THE SITUATION AND LED HIM TO THE HARDWARE THAT'S GOING TO ENABLE HIM TO STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THIS LARGE-SCALE THREAT—THE WAR MACHINE ARMOR...

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THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHERNAYA.
FORMERLY THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CHERNAYA.
‹WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER TO USE THAT TRACTOR, OLD MAN?›*
*TRANSLATED FROM CHERNAYAN.
‹IT HASN'T WORKED SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE IN DIAPERS, MY FRIEND.›
‹NO MATTER. WE'LL FIX IT UP SOON ENOUGH.›
‹WE ARE CLAIMING THIS LAND ON BEHALF OF GLORIOUS LEADER PETROV AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHERNAYA.›
‹LIKE HELL YOU ARE.›
‹OLD MAN, WE CAN DO THIS THE EASY WAY--›
‹THE HARD WAY IT IS. GRAB HIM.›

〈PUT HIM ON HIS KNEES.〉
〈ANY LAST WORDS?〉
〈YES. GO TO--〉
CRACK
〈WHAT IS IT?〉
〈A METEOR?〉
〈THAT'S NO METEOR.〉

‹GOD IN HEAVEN. WHAT IS THIS?›

WHY IS THAT MAN ON HIS KNEES?
HE IS TO BE EXECUTED FOR BEING A TRAITOR AND ENEMY OF GLORIOUS LEADER PETROV.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
CLICK CLICK
DAMMIT.
<HA! HA! YOU JUST SIGNED YOUR DEATH-->
FWAM

BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
SKRN
H
BOOM
WHAM
WA
K
<BURN IN HELL!>

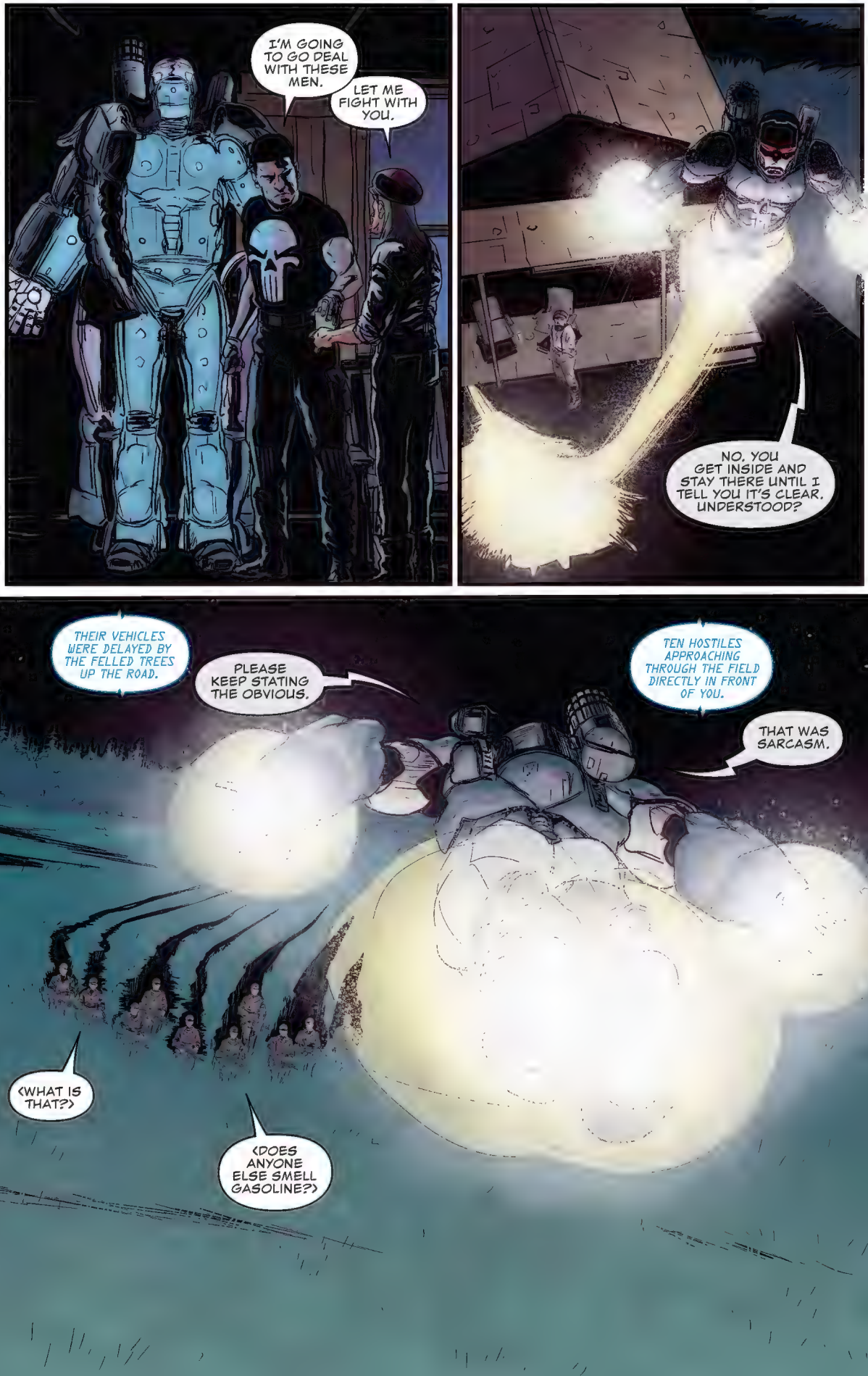
BOOM
GIVE ME A SITREP.
SYSTEM PERFORMING AT 99%. THREE HOSTILES NEUTRALIZED.
LAST HOSTILE APPEARS TO BE FLEEING ON FOOT. THREAT EFFECTIVELY NEUTRALIZED.
NO NO NO
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT.
NO NO NO
NOOOOO

AAAIIIIIII!
<:SIGH:>
MY POOR, BROKEN TRACTOR.>
SPPLAT
AMERICAN, YES?
YES.
YOU'RE GETTING BETTER AT LANDING, AMERICAN.
I'M A QUICK LEARNER.
WHY DID THOSE MEN CALL YOU A TRAITOR?
I REFUSED TO GIVE THEM MY CROPS.
BUT THE JOKE IS ON THEM. THESE CROPS HAVE BLIGHT. THEY ALL NEED TO BE BURNED ANYWAY. IT WAS JUST THE WAY THEY ASKED...
WHAT NOW?
GOTTA GO SEE A MAN ABOUT A REVOLUTION.
YOU GO?! BUT WHEN THESE SOLDIERS DO NOT RETURN, THEIR FRIENDS WILL COME LOOKING.
ALL THE SOLDIERS WILL COME, AND WHEN THEY DON'T FIND THEIR FRIENDS, THEY WILL BE LOOKING FOR BLOOD.
YEAH?
THEN MAYBE I'LL STICK AROUND AND HELP THEM FIND SOME.

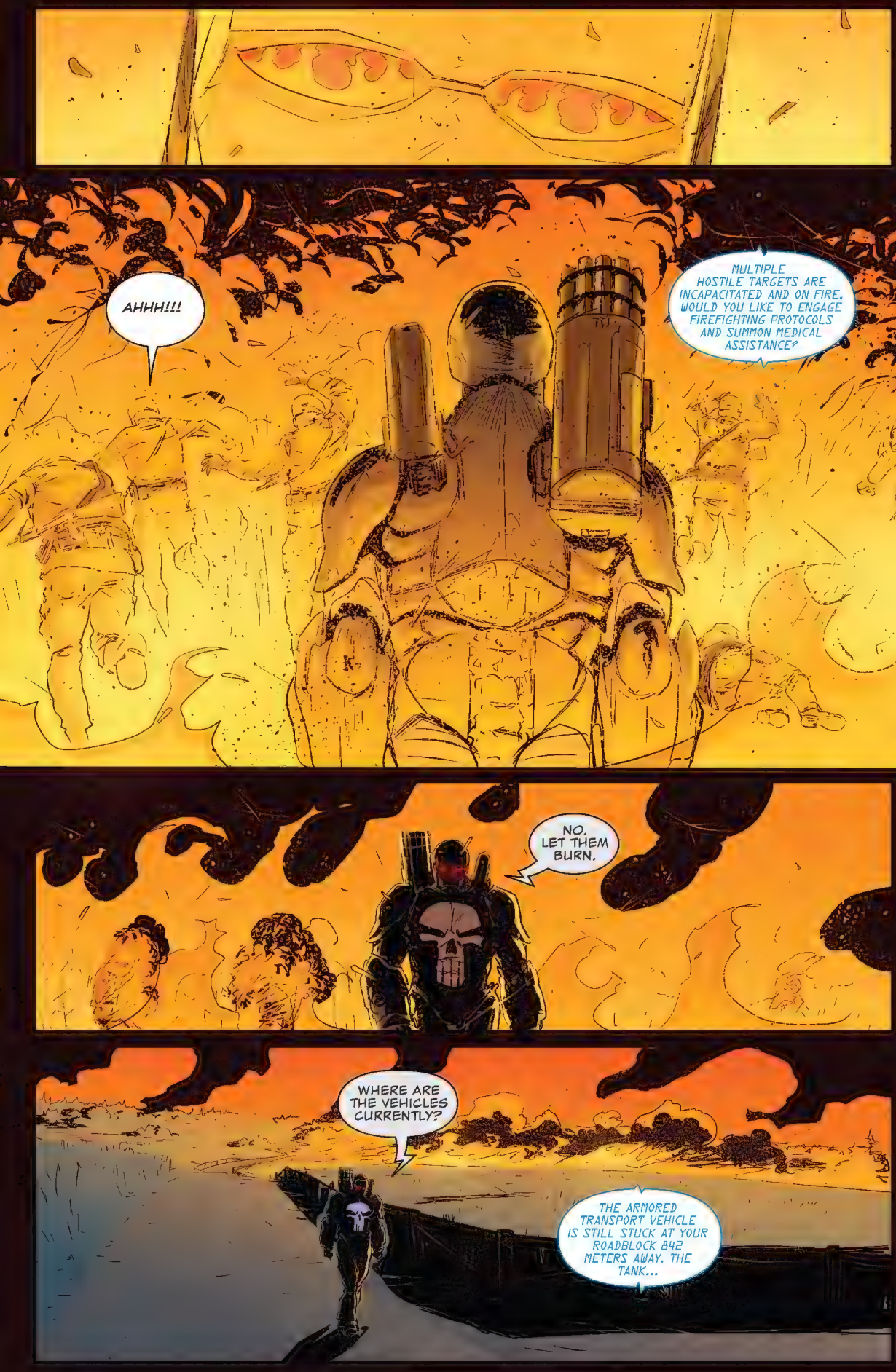
"WELL, IF YOU'RE GOING TO STAY ON MY LAND, PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP ME CLEAN UP THIS MESS?"
HOPEFULLY WITH THESE GUYS IN THE GROUND, THEY'LL BE OUT OF SIGHT AND OUT OF MIND.
I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE ALL THIS, OLD MAN.
"OLD MAN" IS WHAT INSOLENT CHILDREN CALL ME. THE MAN WHO DIGS GRAVES FOR ME? HE CAN CALL ME VAKHA.
VAKHA? I'M FRANK.
WELL, I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE ALL THIS, VAKHA.
I'VE SEEN WORSE. BEFORE I WAS A BAD FARMER, I WAS A GOOD SOLDIER. IN THREE WARS.
IS THAT WHAT THIS WAS? OLD GRUDGES?
NO, I'VE NEVER SEEN THESE BOYS BEFORE. BUT I HAVE SEEN THEM MY WHOLE LIFE.
SOMETIMES THEY WEAR RUSSIAN UNIFORMS. SOMETIMES AMERICAN. LATVERIA. HYDRA. LEVIATHAN. S.H.I.E.L.D.
NOW THEY WEAR THE UNIFORMS OF MY OWN COUNTRY, BUT IT'S NO DIFFERENT.
WE TAKE YOUNG MEN, CHILDREN, AND TELL THEM THEY CAN KILL THOSE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FOR OUR CAUSE. FROM THAT THEY LEARN THEY CAN HURT AND THREATEN AND STEAL FOR THAT CAUSE.
IT'S NOT LONG BEFORE THEY LEARN THEY CAN DO IT FOR NO CAUSE AT ALL.

THIS UNIFORM... IS NEW TO ME.
ME, TOO.
I PREFER SOMETHING I CAN TAKE APART AND REBUILD WITH MY HANDS.
I CAN'T EVEN MAKE THE WEAPONS WORK ON THIS BILLION DOLLAR PILE OF #$!&.
DID YOU TURN THE SAFETY OFF?
THERE'S NO SAFETY ON SOMETHING LIKE THIS, OLD MAN.
ALL WEAPONS HAVE SAFETIES NOW.
ARMOR, IS THERE A WEAPONS SAFETY?
THERE IS.
DEACTIVATE ALL WEAPONS SAFETIES.
GOOD. IT WORKS. NOW LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.

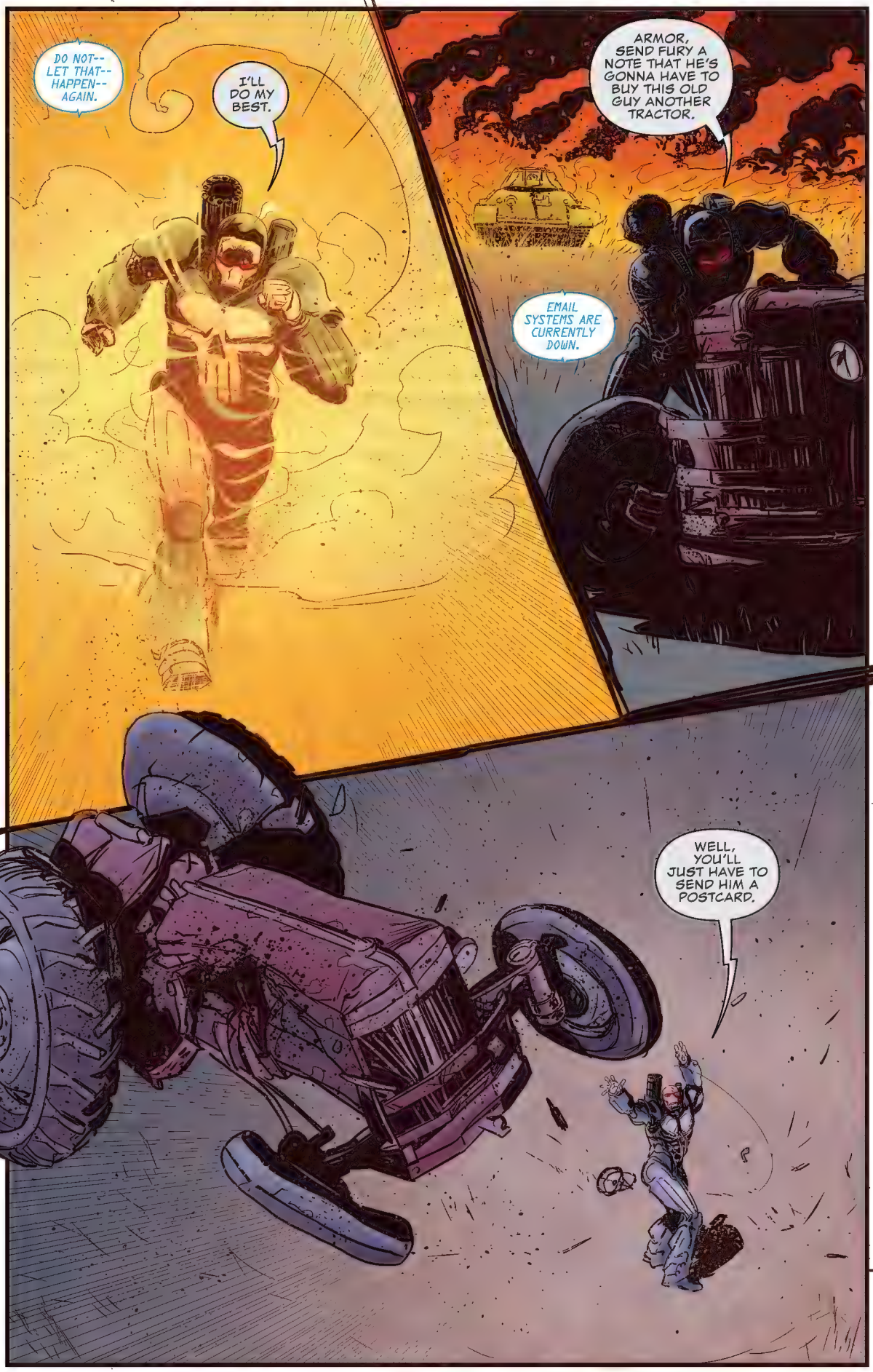
"THESE SOLDIERS, FRANK, THEY WANT TO RECLAIM THE FARMS, THE BUSINESSES, EVERYTHING. THEY WANT TO 'RESTORE CHERNAYA.'
"I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THERE IS TO RESTORE. PROGRESS MOVES US FORWARD, MAKES LIFE BETTER, AND YET THERE ARE ALWAYS SOME DUMB, HATEFUL MEN WHO WANT TO DRAG US BACKWARD.
"I GAVE THE COUNTRY MY BLOOD, MY CHILDREN. I THOUGHT I WAS TOO OLD TO FIGHT ANYMORE, FRANK. THE STUDENTS, THE YOUNG PEOPLE, THEY FIGHT NOW. I BEAT MY SWORD INTO A PLOWSHARE TOO SOON, IT SEEMS."
THERE'S NO SHAME IN THAT.
YES, THERE IS. AND YOU KNOW IT.
I BUILT THIS FARM WITH MY BARE HANDS WHEN I WAS DONE FIGHTING. I PLANTED ROOTS. I GREW SOFT HERE. I GOT MARRIED HERE. MY WIFE IS BURIED RIGHT OVER THERE. BUT I SHOULD ALWAYS BE READY TO FIGHT AGAIN.
FOR WHAT WE'VE LIVED THROUGH, WE DESERVE A QUIET LIFE, FRANK, BUT YOU KNOW WE DON'T ALWAYS GET WHAT WE DESERVE.
MULTIPLE HEAT SIGNATURES APPROACHING FROM THE NORTHEAST.


I'M GOING TO GO DEAL WITH THESE MEN.
LET ME FIGHT WITH YOU.
NO. YOU GET INSIDE AND STAY THERE UNTIL I TELL YOU IT'S CLEAR. UNDERSTOOD?
THEIR VEHICLES WERE DELAYED BY THE FELLED TREES UP THE ROAD.
PLEASE KEEP STATING THE OBVIOUS.
TEN HOSTILES APPROACHING THROUGH THE FIELD DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF YOU.
THAT WAS SARCASM.
<WHAT IS THAT?>
<DOES ANYONE ELSE SMELL GASOLINE?>

YOU ARE TRESPASSING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. TURN AROUND NOW.
IT IS YOU WHO ARE TRESPASSING, YES, AMERICAN? IN *OUR* COUNTRY.
I CAME TO SEE GENERAL PETROV. TAKE ME TO HIM. I PROMISE I'LL LEAVE RIGHT AFTER.
HA! I WILL TAKE YOU TO MEET THE GENERAL.
FIRST WE MUST KILL THE FARMER. THEN YOU MEET THE GENERAL.
YOU MEET HIM AS HE PUTS YOU IN THE GAS CHAMBER, LIKE HE WILL FOR ALL OF YOU SUB-HUMAN--
BOOM
FWOOOSH
IT'S OKAY. I'LL FIND HIM MYSELF.


AHHH!!!
MULTIPLE HOSTILE TARGETS ARE INCAPACITATED AND ON FIRE. WOULD YOU LIKE TO ENGAGE FIREFIGHTING PROTOCOLS AND SUMMON MEDICAL ASSISTANCE?
NO. LET THEM BURN.
WHERE ARE THE VEHICLES CURRENTLY?
THE ARMORED TRANSPORT VEHICLE IS STILL STUCK AT YOUR ROADBLOCK 842 METERS AWAY. THE TANK...

"...IS 12 METERS WEST OF YOU AND GAINING."
YOU NEED TO GET BETTER AT PRIORITIZING INFORMATION.
ACKNOWLEDGED.
ARMOR, INITIALIZE ANTI-TANK MEASU--
KA-BOOM
BEAM
DIRRRECT HIT.
I NOTICED. SYSTEMS CHECK...
SZZYSTEMSZ 62% OPERAAATIONAL. LONG-RANGE SCANNERRRRRS OFFLINE. RRREPULSOR SYSTEMS-- NON-RESPONSIVVVVE. FLIGHT PROGRAMMING OFFLINE. HEAT SHIEEELDING OFFLINE. ALL WEAPONS OFFLINE. INITIALIZING REBOOT.


DO NOT-- LET THAT-- HAPPEN-- AGAIN.
I'LL DO MY BEST.
ARMOR, SEND FURY A NOTE THAT HE'S GONNA HAVE TO BUY THIS OLD GUY ANOTHER TRACTOR.
EMAIL SYSTEMS ARE CURRENTLY DOWN.
WELL, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO SEND HIM A POSTCARD.

KLANG
ARMOR? HOW'S THAT REBOOT COMING?
REBOOT COMPLETE. ALL SYSTEMS BACK ONLINE.
WELL, ALL RIGHT.
ZICHOOM
<THAT MAN IS DEATH!>
<QUICK, IN THAT HOUSE!>
<HOPEFULLY WE'LL BE SAFE IN HERE UNTIL-->
2

‹HELLO, BOYS.›
RE-RUNNING DAMAGE ASSESSMENT.
YOU'RE FINE.
‹NO! GET AWAY!›

FWOOSH
SITREP.
ALL REMAINING HOSTILES ARE IN THE ARMORED TRANSPORT 970 METERS AWAY AND RETREATING. NO REMAINING THREATS. CONFLICT OVER.
DON'T TELL ME WHEN THE CONFLICT IS OVER.
TRANSPORT VEHICLE DESTROYED. ALL REMAINING LIFE SIGNS WITHIN A TWO-KILOMETER RADIUS ARE FADING.
YOU MEAN HOSTILE LIFE SIGNS.
NEGATIVE. LIFE SIGNS OF ANY KIND.
#$!@

I TOLD YOU TO STAY INSIDE.
I SHOWED THESE LITTLE FASCISTS, DIDN'T I?
⊹COUGH⊹ IT TURNS OUT I'M PRETTY GOOD WITH MY PLOWSHARE, TOO.
VAKHA!
IT FELT GOOD TO FIGHT ONE LAST TIME, FRANK...
...BUT IT FEELS BETTER TO BE DONE.
YOU'RE NOT DONE YET, OLD MAN.
I AM. I HAVE A WIFE AND A SON WHO HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR ME.
I WAS NEVER GOOD AT IT, BUT I LOVED THIS FARM.
I LOVED PRETENDING. ⊹COUGH⊹ I DON'T WANT... THESE SOLDIERS TO TAKE MY FARM.
THEY WON'T.
YOU SHOULD TAKE IT, FRANK. YOU CAN PRETEND--⊹

YOU SURE THE CLOAKING ON THESE SUITS WORKS?
IF HE COULD SENSE THAT WE WERE HERE, WE'D ALREADY BE DEAD.
HE'S GOING FOR PETROV, YA KNOW.
GOOD. THIS'LL BE FUN.

NEXT

SEND LETTERS TO **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM**, BE SURE TO MARK THEM **"OKAY TO PRINT."**